

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 IO-15 SPM-01

EB-11 AGR-20 DRC-01 STR-08 /184 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1937

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4713

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12/31/79

TAGS: ECON, UR

SUBJ: USSR: RATIONING AND LIMITATION OF SALES

REF: STATE A-6463, JULY 28, 1973

THE TEXT OF THE GERMAN REPLY TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN
REFERENCED AIRGRAM IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE-THE LATEST FOOD RATIONINGS IN THE USSR HAVE
OFTEN BEEN INTERPRETED DIFFERENTLY. WE STICK TO OUR VIEW THAT
THEY WERE INTENSIFIED FORMS OF FIXING CONTINGENTS AS THEY CAN
REGIONALLY BE OBSERVED ALSO IN GOOD YEARS IN THE USSR. THEY
CONSIST IN LIMITED ALLOTMENTS TO THE SELLING AGENCIES. THERE
HAS BEEN NO RELIABLE INFORMATION ON AN EVEN REGIONALLY LIMITED
REINTRODUCTION OF THE RATIONING BY MEANS OF RATION CARDS WITH
COUPONS WHICH WAS SUSPENDED IN 1949. IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE
REGIME WOULD HAVE AVOIDED THIS FORM OF RATIONING ALREADY FOR
PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS.

THE INFORMATION ON THE KIND AND SCOPE OF FOOD CONTINGENTS
IS NOT ONLY BASED ON REPORTS BY THE DIPLOMATIC MISSION OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IN MOSCOW AND ON THE EVALUATION OF
SOVIET PRESS MATERIAL, BUT ESPECIALLY ON STATEMENTS ON RETURNING
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ETHNIC-GERMAN EMIGRANTS.

AFTER THE PREPARATION OF THE STUDY IN MID-APRIL 1973,
INFORMATION ON FOOD RATIONING USING CARDS HAS BEEN RECEIVED,

AS FOR EXAMPLE AN US INFORMATION IN WHICH THE RATIONING OF
POTATOES AT WOLGOGRAD IS MENTIONED. WE THINK, HOWEVER, THAT
THESE RATION CARDS WERE LICENCES OF SOME INDIVIDUAL SELLING
AGENCIES. END QUOTE. RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

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